

The pied Shag and the flounder



Photograph David Brooks

**This looks good and am I hungry.
I wonder if my eyes are bigger than my tummy is?**

Cuckoo- -Roger Smith



The cuckoos are about-- probably checking out where the grey warbler is nesting so they can turf out of the nest its babies and or eggs and lay their own eggs in their place. It is disappointing that our cuckoos don't say cuckoo like their English cousins. It was wonderful when a few years ago my wife and I heard one while on holiday in England. Our birds just have a series of loud squawks one after the other with a shrill ascending sound at the end. Again many years ago I heard of a fellow standing on the cliffs at Castlepoint and seeing a swallow making landfall from across the Ocean.

Godwits

The godwits are back in the estuary in small numbers. It's great to see them here after their flight from Alaska, Just as well the estuary is in good health and there is plenty of food for them to eat.



Would you believe that I could swallow a flounder as large as this?.

Photographs David Brooks

E/Mail from Laurie Petherick

Hi Mik, I was lucky enough to spot a shag in the shallow outlet from the weir into the river struggling with what I thought was an eel. I saw a guy (David Brook) going to his car with a big camera lens so called him over. It was in fact a quite big flounder which the shag managed to get to the water's edge, and then struggle with it for a good 5 mins or more as it tried to work out how it was going to get the awkward shaped thing into its gullet, without the use of its webbed feet!!

Incredibly, after trying the dead straight ahead never going to work direction, it tried the sideways attempt, and somehow managed to get the flounder to fold as it went down its gullet! It then staggered over to the end of the groin and sat on a log drying off its wings and probably working out how to get all the extra body weight up into the Macrocarpa tree to its nest with wet wings.

I sent David a copy of my landscape photo that you put in your last book, and also a couple of the kingfisher with the skink in its beak on our bird bath, and asked if you could use his photos in your newsletter. His reply is follows:

Your photos look great Laurie. Please feel welcome to pass the photos on to Mick Peryer. You're lucky to live in such a great spot and I hope the bird life flourishes there, it was a bit of a worry to see a lot of dogs running free over the sand spit where birds were nesting.

Best regards David Brooks.



• **Henk my great grandson doing two things at once. Reading my "Whatever Next" Estuary book.**

My two Children's books would make excellent Xmas presents !

Hits last month—Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred & SixtyFive

***Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking.***

**New e/mail address --
michaelperyer@gmail.com**